

ANGORA FIRE SUSPENSION OF PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

The Lahontan Water Board has responded to the Governor's July 2, 2007 Order suspending statutes, rules and regulations, as they apply to the removal, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous debris resulting from the Angora Fire and other requirements to the extent necessary for expediting the removal and cleanup of debris from the fire, and for implementing the Angora Fire Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan. While the Board has suspended the issuance of permits within the burned area from the Angora Fire, **the Governor's Order requires individuals conducting activities that may discharge wastes to waters of the state to contact the Water Board and provide a description of the activity so that the Board can post the specific authorizations or suspensions on its public website** (See List of Authorizations <insert LINK>). The types of permits that may be suspended include, but are not limited to, solid waste facility permit requirements and conditions, waste discharge requirements for the storage and disposal of fire-related debris, waste discharge requirements for discharges of waste associated with tree removal, prohibitions against discharges or threatened discharges of waste in stream environment zones, waste discharge requirements for construction activities, waste discharge requirements and/or Water Quality Certification for discharges of fill material or pollutants.

On February 14, 2007, the Lahontan Water Board passed Resolution R6T-2007-0008 revising the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharges Related to Timber Harvest and Vegetation Management Activities. This revision created a Waiver Category to address emergency response operations in the event of a wildfire (Waiver Category 6). The Water Board further revised the Timber Waiver policy to allow fuel reduction activities within 150 feet of an existing structure to proceed without any permit or notice to the Water Board (Waiver Category 1a). Waiver Category 6 stipulates that any entity conducting emergency fire suppression or fire rehabilitation work notify the Water Board within 7 days of the initiation of such activity and then proceed to conduct whatever operations are deemed necessary to address the emergency without interference from the Water Board. Attachment A to Resolution R6T-2007-0008 can be viewed at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/WDRs/docs/r6t2007_0008_attacha.pdf

The Water Board has previously adopted a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) that waives the requirement to submit reports of waste discharge or permit applications to the Board for all residential construction projects in the Tahoe Basin. This action was designed to ease permitting burdens for project proponents and has been in effect since 2003. If you are rebuilding or repairing homes or residential structures affected by the Angora Fire, no notification to the Lahontan Water Board is necessary.

Water Board staff are involved in Multi-Agency Coordination meetings to facilitate cleanup and restoration of fire impacts while also providing input to protect public health and the environment.